

TRAVEL DAILY

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Air NZ to slash staff

NEW Air NZ ceo Rob Fyfe isn't wasting any time in putting his stamp on the carrier, announcing plans to cut 600 maintenance jobs.

At Air NZ's agm yesterday he also announced a drop in its full year profit outlook to NZ\$100m, vs a previous forecast in Aug of NZ\$140m, in the face of continuing high fuel costs and strong competition across the Tasman.

Garuda cuts flights

GARUDA Indonesia has announced that in the wake of the recent Bali terrorist incidents it's rescheduled several services from today between Bali and Australian east coast cities.

The carrier has also advised that from 01 Nov normal cancellation and amendment fees will apply.

MEANWHILE, the Dept of Foreign Affairs yesterday reissued its travel advice for Indonesia.

The updated advice continues to warn that "any popular tourist area or location known to be frequented by Westerners is a particular target, incl resort areas such as Kuta, Nusa Dua, Jimbaran and Seminyak."

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New Sabre loyalty scheme

GDS firm Sabre Pacific has launched a new loyalty program which will see agents who use Sabre to book hotels, car hire and airfares earn points they can use for a wide range of rewards.

Head of sales Richard Thame said the scheme, dubbed "Sabre Returns", is the first of its type to offer benefits which will help grow the businesses of agents, and it's believed that as well as "indulgence" rewards, points can also be used for training and coaching programs from TA Fastrack.

The scheme will start from 01 Jan

SkyTeam Asia pass

AIRLINE alliance SkyTeam has introduced a new Asia Pass which allows travel to up to eight cities in the region in conjunction with an intercontinental round trip ticket, offering three to eight coupons.

G.E.T. grows fast

INCENTIVE and conference specialist Group Event Travel has been named the 37th fastest growing company in Australia in BRW's "Fast 100 2005".

CEO Rick Somerton said the recognition is a "further endorsement of the value proposition we have been presenting to our clients".

He said he's confident that G.E.T. will be able to continue its rapid growth "for the foreseeable future".

Holiday Autos sale

HOLIDAY Autos has reduced all its car rental and leasing rates by 10%, effective immediately.

The discount is valid for bookings deposited by 11 Nov 05, for collections prior to 31 Mar 06. More info on 1300 55 44 32.

but agents can register from tomorrow, with 100 bonus points for joining before 31 Dec.

Thame said the scheme reflects Sabre's commitment to agents "as we continue to deliver leading travel marketing initiatives to help put the agent back into travel."

QH soccer tickets

QANTAS Hols says it still has tickets to the 2005 FIFA World Cup qualifier between Australia and Uruguay at Telstra Stadium in Sydney on 16 Nov.

Packages incl two nights accom and tickets lead in at \$345 land only from Sydney, with air-inclusive deals also available from other cities.

MH to boost capacity

MALAYSIA Airlines has announced it will increase capacity on flights to Perth and Auckland by operating 747s on the routes, rather than the current 777 services.

The move is part of a route reorganisation announced by the carrier, which has also dropped plans to commence flights to five new destinations in India and China.

The carrier had earlier announced services to Fuzhou, Guilin and Shenzhen in China as well as Cochin and Amritsar in India, but now says the new routes will be "deferred indefinitely".

MH is instead planning to boost frequencies to New Delhi and Xiamen, and said the "realignment of the network" is part of efforts to contain its cost growth and improve performance.

MEANWHILE, the carrier was earlier this week voted "Best South-East Asian Airline" in the TTG Asia annual travel awards.

WINDOW SEAT

A SURVEY on restaurant etiquette released in the UK this week has revealed the thoughts of diners on the most disgusting behaviour while eating.

British food magazine *Olive* said most readers felt the rudest restaurant act was to click one's fingers to get the waiter's attention.

Other top gaffes included arguing over the bill, smoking while eating and blundering attempts to say the names of foreign dishes.

Less than 5% of respondents thought using the wrong fork or eating the garnish was very rude.

MALAYSIANS are this week mourning the death of a national icon, who certainly came in handy on the country's airport tarmacs.

Letchemanah Ramasamy was known as "Mighty Man" for his feats which included pulling planes around with his hair.

He died aged 55, fifteen years after achieving national fame by pulling a Boeing 737 56 feet along a runway without scalping himself.

Mighty Man also towed a London double-decker bus 98 feet in Leicestershire in 1999.

HERE'S a neat way to adjust the trim on an aircraft.

Passengers on a half-empty Britannia Airlines flight from Tenerife to Gatwick were surprised when the pilot asked for eight "fat people" at the back of the plane to move forward.

The UK *Sun* newspaper reports one man on the flight who weighs 24 stone saying "at the time I thought it was funny but it was quite humiliating for anyone large in those rows."

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